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Letter dated 9 May 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you, enclosed herewith, the text of the Final Communiqué of the Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State, members of the Committee on Sierra Leone of the Lomé Peace Agreement, held at Abuja on today's date, 9 May 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Cheickna **Keita**
First Counsellor, Chargé d'affaires a.i.
For the Ambassador, Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 9 May 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Mali to the United Nations

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Final Communiqué of the Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State members of the Committee on Sierra Leone of the Lomé Peace Agreement

Abuja, 9 May 2000

SUMMIT OF ECOWAS HEAD OF STATE MEMBERS
OF THE COMMITTEE ON SIERRA LEONE
ABUJA, 9 MAY 2000

1. On the initiative of the current ECOWAS Chairman, His Excellency Alpha Oumar Konare, President of the Republic of Mali, a summit meeting of ECOWAS Heads of State members of the Joint Implementation Committee of the Lomé Peace Agreement on Sierra Leone was held at the Executive Secretariat, Abuja, on Tuesday, 9th May 2000.

2. Present at the meeting were:

- **His Excellency General Robert GUEI**, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Chairman of the NPSC, Minister of Defence;
- **His Excellency General Lansana CONTE**, President of the Republic of Guinea;
- **His Excellency Dahkpanah Dr Charles Ghankey Taylor**, President of the Republic of Liberia;
- **His Excellency Alpha Oumar KONARE**, President of the Republic of Mali;
- **His Excellency Chief Olusegun OBASANJO**, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- **His Excellency El-Hadj Dr. Ahmad Tejan KABBAH**, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone;
- **His Excellency Gnassingbe EYADEMA**, President of the Togolese Republic;
- **His Excellency Mr. Youssouf OUDRAOGO**, Honourable Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs, representing **His**

Excellency Blaise COMPAORÉ, President of Faso, Chairman, Council of Ministers of Burkina Faso

- His Excellency James Victor Gbeho, Minister of Foreign Affairs, representing **Flight-Lieutenant Jerry John RAWLINGS**, President of the Republic of Ghana.

3. Also in attendance were the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the ECOWAS Executive Secretary, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Sierra Leone.

4. Heads of State, deeply concerned about the latest developments in Sierra Leone, listened to the reports presented by President Ahmad Tejan KABBAH, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, and Ambassador Adeniji, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Sierra Leone.

5. They strongly condemned the action of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels who had taken hostage soldiers of the United Nations mission to Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and called for the immediate and unconditional release of the captured soldiers as well as all their equipment, arms and ammunition. In this regard, they approved the mandate given by the current ECOWAS Chairman and by the Heads of State of the Mano River Union to the President of the Republic of Liberia, His Excellency Dahkpanah Dr Charles Ghankey Taylor to involve himself personally to ensure the liberation of the hostages and the resumption of the application of the Lomé Peace Agreement.

6. Heads of State considered the hostage taking as a deliberate violation of the Lomé Peace Agreement, which had been painstakingly negotiated under the auspices of ECOWAS.

7. Heads of State warned the RUF leadership that it runs the risk of revocation of the amnesty earlier granted to the members of the

movement under the Lomé Peace Agreement, as well as being tried for war crimes if they continue to flout the Lomé Peace Agreement.

8. Heads of State reaffirmed their total support for the peace process in Sierra Leone as set out in the Lomé Peace Agreement, which remains the most appropriate framework for the resolution of the armed conflict that has been responsible for so much bloodshed in Sierra Leone for more than ten years.

9. Heads of State also reaffirmed that UNAMSIL's presence in Sierra Leone is in accordance with the Lomé Peace Agreement on Sierra Leone, supported by the UN Security Council. Consequently, UNAMSIL must be allowed to freely operate throughout the territory of Sierra Leone without hindrance.

10. Heads of State considered as unacceptable all attempts to challenge the provisions of the Lomé Peace Agreement and reaffirmed their determination to take every necessary measure to counter any such attempt.

11. They announced that party leaders would be held personally responsible for actions or behaviour of their supporters which might undermine the peace process in Sierra Leone and delay the return to stability in the country.

12. Heads of State expressed their determination to use all means at their disposal, including the military option, to foil any attempt to take over power through the use of force, by ensuring the defence of democratic institutions in Sierra Leone. To this end, they reiterated their unshakeable determination to restore peace to Sierra Leone by all means.

13. They also expressed concern over the situation of the civilian population and humanitarian organisations and issued an appeal that urgent measures be taken to ensure their protection inside Freetown

and throughout Sierra Leone. In this regard, the Heads of State warned against any invasion of the capital Freetown, which would represent an affront to the region and would be met by force if necessary.

14. They expressed their gratitude to the United Nations Organisation for its efforts to restore peace to Sierra Leone and welcomed the close cooperation between the OAU and ECOWAS throughout the negotiation process leading to the adoption of the Lomé Peace Agreement.

15. They expressed their gratitude to Member States which have contributed troops to ECOMOG in Sierra Leone. They paid homage to the memory of the soldiers who had lost their lives on the battlefield while defending democracy and peace in the sub-region.

16. Heads of State requested the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Sierra Leone to transmit immediately to the UN Secretary General all the decisions taken at this Summit for due consideration.

17. Heads of State directed the ECOWAS Executive Secretary to convene a meeting of Ministers of Defence and Chiefs of Staff on 17 May 2000 at Abuja to consider, in the event of new involvement of ECOMOG in Sierra Leone the practical modalities of such involvement.

18. Heads of State requested the OAU Secretary General to inform immediately the African Group of Ambassadors in New York of the decisions taken at this summit with a view to getting the approval and support of the UN Security Council.

Done at Abuja this 9th day of May 2000